

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 040163

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-11

L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 OIC-04 CAB-09

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

H-03 SS-20 NSC-10 PRS-01 PA-04 SAM-01 DOTE-00 SPC-03

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NEA/RA - MR. RCSEARING

AF/RA -MR. WALKER

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

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PAGE 02 STATE 040163

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O.: 11652 N/A
TAGS: ETRN, SG, XX
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - SENEGALESE PROPOSAL TO ICAO COUNCIL FOR
ADDITION TO 1974 ICAO ASSEMBLY AGENDA OF ITEM CALLING
FOR NEW PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF ICAO COUNCIL
REF: STATE 15871 (NOTAL)

MONTREAL FOR US REPRESENTATIVE ICAO

1. SENEGALESE REP ON PERMANENT COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL
CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) IN MONTREAL HAS
ADVANCED PROPOSAL TO REVISE SYSTEM FOR ELECTING ICAO
COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND COUNCIL ON MARCH 4 WILL CONSIDER
SENEGALESE REQUEST TO INSCRIBE PROPOSAL ON PROVISIONAL
AGENDA FOR ICAO 21ST ASSEMBLY, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT
MONTREAL IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1974. US STRONGLY OPPOSES
PLACING PROPOSAL BEFORE ASSEMBLY, AND BELIEVES IT IS IN
THE INTEREST OF OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
TO SEE THAT SENEGALESE INITIATIVE IS SET ASIDE FIRMLY AND
WITH MINIMUM CONTENTION BY BROADLY SUPPORTED COUNCIL
DECISION MARCH 4.

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PAGE 03 STATE 040163

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 50 (B) OF
CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION, ASSEMBLY
RULES OF PROCEDURE PRESENTLY PROVIDE FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS
TO BE ELECTED IN THREE PARTS WITH FIRST TWO PARTS

ASSIGNED TO (1) STATES OF CHIEF IMPORTANCE IN AIR TRANS-
PORT AND (2) STATES MAKING LARGEST CONTRIBUTION TO
PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AIR

NAVIGATION, WHILE ELECTIONS UNDER THIRD PART MUST ASSURE THAT ALL MAJOR GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF THE WORLD ARE REPRESENTED ON COUNCIL. (STATES MAY BE ELECTED IN THIS PART WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE CANDIDATES IN EITHER OF FIRST TWO PARTS.) EXPANSION OF COUNCIL TO THIRTY MEMBERS CAME INTO EFFECT YEAR AGO, AND IN PRESENT COUNCIL TEN MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ELECTED UNDER EACH PART. COMPLICATED SENEGALESE PROPOSAL WOULD IMPOSE REQUIREMENT FOR GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION IN FIRST TWO PARTS OF ELECTION CONTRARY TO ARTICLE 50(B) OF CONVENTION. FIRST AND SECOND ELECTION PARTS WOULD BE CONDUCTED BY TWO SEPARATE BALLOTS (THE SECOND BALLOT WOULD BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION AFTER THE FIRST TWO-THIRDS OF SEATS IN THAT PART HAD BEEN FILLED). ONLY NINE COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD BE ELECTED UNDER EACH OF FIRST TWO PARTS, WHILE THIRD WOULD BE INCREASED TO TWELVE.

3. WE NOT ONLY REGARD PROPOSAL AS MISCHIEVOUS PLOY TO BRING ABOUT FAR-REACHING CHANGE IN CHARACTER OF ICAO EXECUTIVE BODY, AND CONSEQUENTLY IN TECHNICAL CHARACTER AND RELIABILITY OF ORGANIZATION AS A WHOLE, BUT FEEL DEVIOUS AND CUMBERSOME ELECTION PROCEDURE PROPOSED WOULD BE DEBILITATING, POLITICALLY DIVISIVE AND POSSIBLY UNWORKABLE. LONG ESTABLISHED COUNCIL ELECTION PARTS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE CORRESPOND ACCURATELY WITH ARTICLE 50 OF CHICAGO CONVENTION. PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE GEOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS INTO ELECTIONS UNDER PARTS ONE AND TWO WOULD, IN OUR VIEW, BE DEPARTURE FROM ARTICLE 50 AND REQUIRE CONVENTION AMENDMENT. DIMINISHED PROSPECT FOR PRESENCE ON COUNCIL OF STATES CHIEFLY CONCERNED WITH INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION WOULD SERIOUSLY WEAKEN THE ABILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION TO CARRY OUT THE ESSENTIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 040163

FUNCTIONS IT WAS CREATED TO PERFORM.

4. OUR SOUNDINGS AMONG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN MONTREAL INDICATE PROBABILITY THAT WHEN COUNCIL TAKES UP QUESTION MARCH 4, THERE WILL BE MAJORITY OPPOSED TO INSCRIPTION (EVEN WITHOUT INVOKING STATUTORY MAJORITY RULE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE SENEGAL TO MUSTER 16 POSITIVE VOTES). WE PREFER MORE DECISIVE OUTCOME, HOWEVER, WHICH WOULD DISCREDIT SENEGALESE IDEAS SUFFICIENTLY ENOUGH TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR SENEGAL OR OTHERS TO PURSUE THEM FROM FLOOR AT ASSEMBLY. COUNCIL DECISION FROM WHICH NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSTAIN WOULD NOT ACHIEVE THIS. SUCH OUTCOME MIGHT EVEN STRENGTHEN SENEGALESE HAND FOR FURTHER INITIATIVE IN ASSEMBLY, AND EVENTUATE IN OUTCOME THERE WHICH COULD BE SERIOUSLY HARMFUL TO ORGANI-

ZATION AND DISADVANTAGE

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